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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Group Art Unit:

Dearnaley et al

99999999

Serial No.:

09/901,364

Examiner:

Filed: 1. .;

July 9, 2001

For:

Life Extension of Chromium

Coatings and Chromium Alloys

Atty. Docket: SwRI-2834

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

. Washington, D.C. 20231

Box Response

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This amendment is in response to the Notice of Omitted Item(s) In a Nonprovisional Application dated February 26, 2002.

In The Claims:

Cancel claims 175 to 206 and add the following claims:

(New) A chromium coating comprising a gradient from inside to an outside 207. surface consisting essentially of:

primarily chromium molecules/a mixture consisting essentially of chromium oxide molecules and chromium molecules/a surface comprising a sufficient quantity of said chromium-oxide molecules to/produce a final coefficient of friction in an